

**STATEMENT OF HOWARD M. RADZELY
NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**HEARING BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE
NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Enzi, and distinguished Members of the Committee. It is an honor to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be the Deputy Secretary of Labor. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the President of the United States for nominating me for this position and to the Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, for the support and confidence she has demonstrated in recommending me for this position. I would also like to thank the Committee for considering my nomination and holding this hearing today during this very busy time. Finally, I would like to thank my wife Lisa, my 7 year old son Brendan, and my 3 year old son Devin, who are with me today, for all of the sacrifices they have made to allow me to serve in the government for the past nearly 6 ½ years and for the sacrifices they will make if I am confirmed to be the Deputy Secretary of Labor.

The Department of Labor arguably has one of the broadest reaches of any domestic department and handles issues of importance to nearly every American, from youth to retiree. The Department regulates a workforce of over 150 million workers and oversees programs for Americans who are hoping to acquire additional skills and education to either further or change their careers. The Department enforces statutes and regulations ranging from child labor protections to provisions that protect American workers' retirement security and everything in between.

I see the Department of Labor as having one of the most important missions in the federal government. The Department has an extremely critical task to help prepare the workforce for the challenges of the 21st century. Through the Employment and Training Administration, the Veterans Employment and Training Service, the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the Women's Bureau, and Job Corps, DOL provides programs and assistance to help Americans obtain the skills needed to succeed in today's economy.

For those already employed, the Department has enforcement functions in a wide range of areas to help protect workers. Among the Department's many important tasks are enforcing health and safety laws, wage and hour laws, the Family Medical Leave Act, Executive Order 11246, the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act, numerous whistleblower laws, the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

The Department also has a number of critical additional tasks carried out by agencies such as the Office of Workers Compensation Programs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

Since coming to the Department of Labor in June 2001 and serving as Deputy Solicitor, Acting Solicitor and Solicitor, I have worked with the dedicated career attorneys

in the Solicitor's Office to use the Department's resources and enforcement tools effectively. Since being designated Acting Deputy Secretary earlier this year, I have had the opportunity to work on many important issues in a new capacity.

If confirmed as Deputy Secretary, I would function largely as the Chief Operating Officer of the Department. I am prepared to help the Department advance its important mission in a new role. I am eager to continue working with the career professionals at the Department on management, program, and regulatory initiatives to serve American workers. I am also committed to seeing that the Department implements in a timely manner the new laws for which the Department has responsibility, including the Pension Protection Act and the MINER Act, both enacted into law last year. Many of the requirements of these new statutes have already been implemented, and the Department is preparing to complete a number of additional, critical tasks over the coming months.

In sum, as Acting Deputy Secretary and, if confirmed as Deputy Secretary, I understand and appreciate the great responsibility I bear. Thank you again for considering my nomination, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.